

Jackson County Receives EPA Honor for Waste Reduction and Recycling

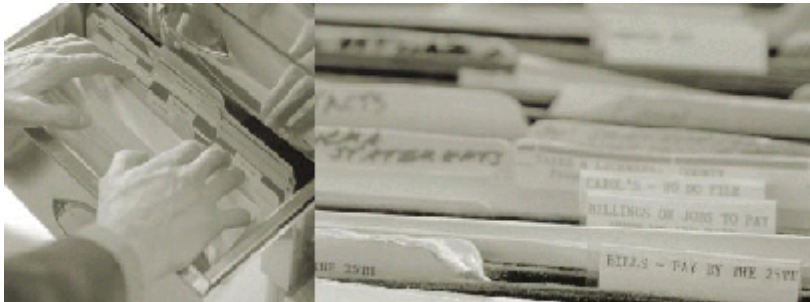


The Jackson County, Missouri, government is a community leader when it comes to recycling. As an outstanding partner in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WasteWise program, the Agency named Jackson County the Local Government Partner of the Year for its waste reduction activities.

The award was presented to County Executive Katheryn Shields by Karen Flournoy, Director, Office of External Programs during the 2002 Jackson County Energy and Environmental Awareness Showcase that was held in October.



One of Jackson County's biggest accomplishments last year was taking the leading role in establishing a 'Clean Out Your Files Day'. The one-day project brought together 26 agencies from both sides of the state line, involving over 55 facilities, and 9,000 employees. Employees were challenged to clean out their files and recycle what they could. The totals were astounding! Katheryn Shields had set a goal of 50 tons in one day. By the end of that day, over 126 tons of paper products were recycled. Eleven tons of non-paper products, which were recycled, reused, or disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner.



Jackson County also partnered with local organizations to provide county employees the opportunity to recycle aluminum cans. The county encouraged the procurement of products containing recycled content and spent more than \$12,000 on these products in 2001, alone. From activities like purchasing copy paper that contained 30 percent

postconsumer content to collecting recyclables, the county saved more than \$121,000 in 2001. Since 1995, employees have saved over 70,000 trees, enough water to fill Arrowhead stadium, and more than \$700,000 taxpayer dollars.

WasteWise is a free, and voluntary partnership program launched by EPA in 1994. The program provides guidance and recognition to the nearly 1,300 participating organizations working to find practical methods to reduce municipal solid waste and improve financial performance. WasteWise membership boasts more than 1,100 partners representing a wide array of businesses, institutions, and government agencies.

WasteWise focuses on three key elements of waste reduction: waste prevention, recycling, and buying or manufacturing recycled content products. Organizations joining WasteWise agree to develop goals in these areas, track their results, and share their accomplishments with the program. To facilitate the implementation of waste reduction programs, WasteWise provides partners with guidance for establishing goals and tips for monitoring progress.

Research by EPA and others has shown that conserving materials through waste prevention and recycling saves energy and reduces pollution, including emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. In addition to the numerous environmental benefits waste prevention and recycling offer, waste reduction can improve operational efficiency and reduce waste management and purchasing costs.